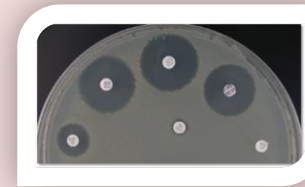


A Scientific Workshop in Thai Binh

The project organized a workshop in Thai Binh on November 11th, formally titled: "A Study on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) for Food Safety in Vietnam - A Collaborative Study between Vietnam and Japan". More than 400 attendees, including medical students of Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy (TBUMP), participated. Young Vietnamese researchers, recently back from long or short-term training courses in Japan, presented their research achievements. The workshop also aimed to increase awareness of AMR issues in Vietnam.

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Project for "Determining the Outbreak Mechanisms and Development a Surveillance Model for Multi-Drug Resistant Bacteria"



The 4th Progress Meeting in Thai Binh



The 4th Progress Meeting was held in Thai Binh on the 10th of November 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to share research progress with other project members and to outline an activity plan for 2016. One of the main agendas tabled during the meeting was to propose an outline of the comprehensive project report that will be pitched to the Ministry of Health towards the end of the project in FY 2016. After exchanging technical comments and suggestions, the project members decided on a final outline for the report.

A Workshop on AMR in Hanoi

The project organized a workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Vietnam to share the comprehensive project report outline with other institutions. The editorial task-force of the report, comprised of NIN and Osaka University, unveiled their scientific evidence and AMR monitoring system model to the guests. The institutions in attendance which engage in AMR research were; The Vietnam Food Administration (VFA), National Agro-Forestry-Fisheries Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD), WHO, JICA, and USAID.



Evaluating the project's evidence on AMR, the participants advised on the importance of utilizing the findings. They suggested that a future monitoring system, applying the project's model, would be a useful resource for policy makers. The task-force took note of the suggestions and will continue to update the report until 2016.



- Opening remarks by the representative of MOH and the project chief advisor. Comments by JICA and closing remarks by the project leader.
- Abbreviation: MOH=Ministry of Health, NIN=National Institute of Nutrition, TBUMP= Thai Binh University of Medicine & Pharmacy, PINT=Pasteur Institute in Nha Trang, IPH=Institute of Public Health in HCMC, BDWSM=Binh Dien Whole Sale Market Company, CTU=Can Tho University

Intervention Activities

In order to prevent the spread of AMR, intervention programs have been implementing in several local communities around Hanoi and Thai Binh since September 2015. The programs include a hygiene awareness campaign, aiming to promote hand washing and proper usage of antibiotics using information, education and communication (IEC) materials distributed to local people.



AMR Monitoring Activities



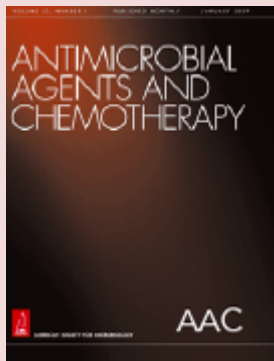
In September 2015; NIN, PINT and IPH implemented a monitoring routine on ESBL-producing *E.coli* in foods. In HCMC, IPH collected the same four food samples from a wholesale market, supermarkets and retail markets. A Japanese expert, who supervises the monitoring process and the analysis protocol, also joined IPH's field work and visited Binh Dien Whole Sale Market Company (BDWSM).

Training courses in Hanoi

NIN organized theoretical and practical sessions of the local training course, "Primer Design and Gene Cloning" in October 2015. Thirteen young microbiologists from 5 institutions attended the course at a research collaboration laboratory and carried out a gene cloning procedure. With primers designed by themselves (a strand of a short nucleic acid sequence enabled to clone a target gene), they tried to clone the gene using an *E.coli* system.

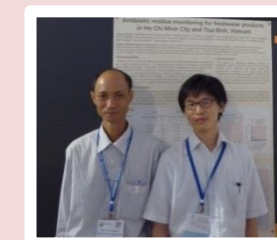


A new article written by project members was published by the international journal, *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, in October 2015. The article named "Carriage of *Escherichia coli* Producing CTX-M-Type Extended-Spectrum β -Lactamase in Healthy Vietnamese Individuals", examined healthy carriage of the *E. coli* strand by collecting fecal samples from the same 199 healthy Vietnamese subjects, three times every 6 months. The study found that the CTX-M-type ESBL-producing *E. coli* has a short carriage period in healthy Vietnamese subjects.



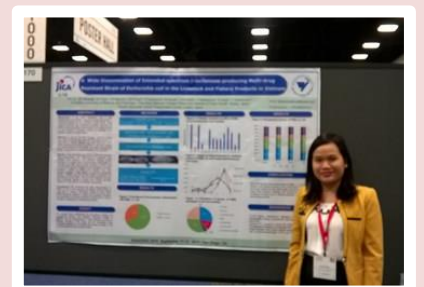
- *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, 2015 Oct; 59(10):6611-6614.
- doi:10.1128/AAC.00776-15
- Authors: Thi Mai Huong Bui, Itaru Hirai, Shuhei Ueda, Thi Kim Ngan Bui, Kouta Hamamoto, Takehiko Toyosato, Danh Tuyen Le, and Yoshimasa Yamamoto.

Poster & Oral Presentations



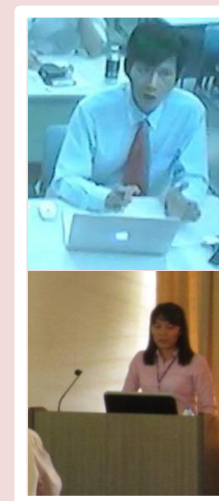
A member of the IPH Pharmacology Working Group, Dr. Nguyen Duc Thinh, made an oral presentation at the 52nd Annual North American Chemical Residue Workshop held in Florida in July 2015. The presentation was titled "Antibiotic Residue Monitoring for Animal Food in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam."

From the Microbiology Working Group of TBUMP, Ms. Khong Thi Diep, attended the *Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* (ICAAC 2015) in San Diego. Ms. Diep constructed a poster presentation, "A Wide Dissemination of the Extended-spectrum Beta-lactamase-producing Multi-drug Resistant Strain of *Escherichia coli* in Livestock and Fishery Products in Vietnam" which was displayed at the conference in September 2015.



PhD and MSc Degree

In September 2015, Dr. Phan Ngoc Quang, a microbiologist from TBUMP, completed his PhD at The University of Tokushima. He studied for three years under Prof. Takahasi Akira, within a long-term training scheme of the project.



In October 2015, Ms. Tran Thi Thu Suong completed the thesis defense for her Master of Science degree at CTU. To complete the thesis, she committed to enhancing her research capability through short-term training courses in Japan and local training courses in Vietnam.